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STATINTL

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Thursday, January 4, 1951.

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In an editorial headlined "tragedies and lessons", Al-Sha'ab refers to the statement made by Haj Amin Al-Hussaini, Mufti of Palestine, in which he declared that Palestine would have been saved had the Arab States confined their aid to supplying Palestine with arms and manpower only without the intervention of their armies; and also refers to the declaration by the former Egyptian Chief of Staff that Egypt entered the war in a state of complete unpreparedness. 585

In view of these statements coupled with Nuri As-Said's recent declaration on the same subject, the paper blames Iraq for engaging in the Palestine war which incurred heavy losses in men and material and which impaired its prestige. Will it surprise anyone to see the Arab peoples losing confidence in their governments after this defeat, he queries. He concludes that Iraq should draw a good lesson from this catastrophe to avoid any further calamities. 525

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Al-Inqad speaks of the prevailing economic crisis in the country attributing it to the inadequacy of the local industry to meet local requirements and also to the government's failure to cut down the prices. The standstill in our economic relations with the Arab States, India, Turkey, Iran and other countries also contributed to the intensification of this crisis, it adds, and calls for the revival of our economic relations with Japan and the USSR from whom we can import all sorts of commodities to meet our needs.

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BYE-ELECTIONS IN THE AFEQ QADHA

Owing to the death of Sa'dun Al-Hasen, deputy for Afeq Qadha, a bye-election will be conducted in that Constituency on February 17, 1951, to elect a new deputy, states an announcement by the Acting Minister of Interior, (Al-Naba'). 525

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FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENTAL IMPORT COMPANY

A Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance and with the membership of the Directors General of Finance, Imports, Accounts, and of Income Tax, will be set up to draw up the provisions of the governmental company, with a capital of half a million dinars, for the import of essential commodities to Iraq and their disposal to governmental officials at cost price. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

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Judge Britt, the British Lawyer in charge of filing a suit against the British oil companies in connection with Iraq's oil royalty, will leave for London today after consulting the Iraqi Government on this subject. (Al-Naba')

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In an editorial, under the headline, the Arabs and the Western Bloc, As-Sijil speaks of the prevailing international tension and of the Anglo-American attempt to line up the big and small nations to their side, including the Arab states. It reminds the Arabs of the many promises these countries have made to the Arabs and which were not fulfilled after the First and Second World War. It urges that any future alliance should not be made unless our demands for complete evacuation from all the Arab countries, removal of military bases from our countries, are realized. Anything short of this, it concludes will not meet with our aspirations.

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